

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3406

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: GOI SPONSORS LARGE RALLY IN TABRIZ

REF: A. TEHRAN 1762, B. TEHRAN 3303, C. TEHRAN 3352

1. THE GOI-SPONSORED RASTIKHIZ PARTY ORGANIZED A PRO-GOVERNMENT MEETING APRIL 9 IN TABRIZ IN RESPONSE TO LARGE SCALE RIOTING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THAT CITY ON FEBRUARY 18 (REFTEL A). ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS MORE THAN 300,000 ATTENDED RALLY, WHICH WAS TELEVISED NATIONALLY, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER AMOUEGAR, CABINET MINISTERS AND RPPI PARTY LEADERS. CONSULATE TABRIZ REPORTS ENTIRE CITY, INCLUDING BAZAAR, CLOSED FOR RALLY WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM SURROUNDING AREAS BEING PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION TO TABRIZ. NO TROUBLE REPORTED.

2. UNDERLYING THEME OF THIRY MINUTE ADDRESS BY AMOUEGAR PLACED BLAME FOR RECENT CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN IRAN ON FOREIGN POWERS, PROMISING THAT "THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMBAT ANY INTRIGUES EMANATING FROM LEFTISTS FOR RIGHTISTS AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST THE INSTIGATORS OF THE FEBRUARY RIOTS". OBLIQUELY REFERRING TO CONSERVATIVE FORCES BEHIND RECENT PROTEST INCIDENTS, THE PRIME
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MINISTER CHARGED THAT, "THESE ELEMENTS' ACTIONS DO NOT ACCORD WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. WHAT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION ARE INSPIRED BY ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.". AMOUEGAR'S SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED FREQUENTLY BY CRIES "LONG LIVE THE SHAH" FROM THE CROWD, AND HE WAS CHEERED LOUDEST WHEN HE DECLARED THAT AZARBAIJAN WOULD NEVER AGAIN

REPEAT ITS 1946 SECESSION FROM IRAN.

3. SEVEN POINT "RESOLUTION" IN SUPPORT OF SHAH-PEOPLE
REVOLUTION AND CONDEMNING "EVERY PLOT, EVERY DESIGN
INSTIGATED BY THE COLONIALISTS AND THEIR HIRED AGENTS"
WAS GIVEN STANDING OVATION BY CROWD.

4. COMMENT: RALLY HAS LONG BEEN IN PREPARATION,
ORIGINALLY BEING SCHEDULED FOR SHORTLY AFTER FEBRUARY
RIOTS IN TABRIZ. GOI-INSPIRED MEDIA PUBLICITY DURING
WEEK PRIOR TO RALLY HAS EXHIBITED STRONGER-THAN-USUAL
ANTI-SOVIET THEME WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARREST OF BG
DARAKSHANI (REFTEL B) AND FRONT PAGE TREATMENT OF
MEMOIRS OF MG AHMAD ZANGANEH WHO HAS WRITTEN THAT THE
SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO FORCE HIM TO SURRENDER THE AZARBAIJAN
CITY OF REZAIEH TO REBEL FORCES IN 1946. THESE MEDIA
EVENTS, PLUS PRIME MINISTER'S "FOREIGN POWERS" REFERENCES,
MAY BE GOI LEADERSHIP'S NOT SO SUBTLE REACTION TO RECENT
SOVIET PROPAGANDA TREATMENT OF IRAN (REFTEL AND SEPTTEL).
WE EXPECT FURTHER COMMENT ONCE OUR CONSUL IN TABRIZ HAS
HAD NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS WITH LOCAL SOURCES.
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